NNewsline

Neighborhood Networks: At the Center of Health Care Delivery

This issue of NNewsline highlights what Neighborhood Networks centers can do to provide health care services and resources. Here are a few examples.

At **Kirkland Union Manor** in **Portland, OR**, administrator Greg Franks dramatically improved health services for seniors. Franks surveyed residents' health needs, identified health care providers who could serve the 281-unit property and made space available for health services. Now, there are monthly clinics for podiatry, and monitoring of blood pressure and hearing loss. Private practitioners staff all the clinics, and services are billed to Medicare.

Melanie Ottoway, executive director of **Versailles Arms II** in **New Orleans**, used a HUD Drug Elimination Grant to hire a substance abuse coordinator for her complex. A grant from the United Way also enabled Ottoway to hire a family advocate who conducts outreach for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and assists eligible families with the CHIP application process.

In **Fargo, ND**, Julie Gunkleman, executive director of **CHARISM Community Center**, brought in the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program to serve residents of Community Homes. WIC, a federal initiative, provides food vouchers, nutritional counseling and well baby check ups for more than 40 families three times each month. Gunkleman convinced the county WIC director that a program at CHARISM would increase the county's participation rate and reduce the high "missed appointment" rate experienced at the off-site location.

For more information on Neighborhood Networks and health-related issues, call the **Neighborhood Networks Information Center toll-free at 888-312-2743** or visit the Neighborhood Networks website at *www.NeighborhoodNetworks.org.*

How One Neighborhood Networks Center Found Health Services Funds

Craig Knudsvig, the client services coordinator at the **LaGrave Learning Center** in **Grand Forks, ND**, used creative thinking and a persuasive presentation to secure funding for health services at the center.

Knudsvig first approached the city health department where he made the case for delivering health care information and services where people live. He requested that a health care professional visit the complex weekly. The department agreed to provide a public health nurse if Knudsvig could find the funding.

So Knudsvig approached Altru Health Systems, a local health care provider. He presented the benefits of on-site health services and told Altru Health about the health department's willingness to provide a nurse. Knudsvig asked specifically for the necessary funding — and he got it!

For more information on funding resources for Neighborhood Networks centers, call the **Neighborhood Networks Information Center toll-free at 888-312-2743** or visit the Neighborhood Networks Resources Database at *www.hud.gov/nnw/nnwresdb.html.*

NNewsline

Health Care Resources

The **Coalition for Healthier Cities and Communities** *(www.healthycommu-nities.org)* is a national alliance of local healthy community organizations that is working to improve the health and quality of life for lower-income people through community development. The Healthy Community partnerships promote a broad concept of health that includes education, jobs and housing.

Community-Campus Partnerships for Health *(www.future-health.ucsf.edu/ccph.html)* encourages partnerships between communities and health-related educational institutions, such as nursing and medical schools. The organization helps with the strategies, skills and knowledge needed to create successful alliances.

For more information on health care resources for Neighborhood Networks centers, call the **Neighborhood Networks Information Center toll-free at 888-312-2743.**

Kids' Corner: Volunteers to Assist Centers

HOPE for Kids is a nonprofit organization that helps underserved children live healthy and productive lives. It organizes and trains volunteers to go door-to-door to identify children who need immunizations. The group has more than 36,000 full-time and seasonal volunteers in 93 cities nationwide working to connect children with health care providers.

HOPE for Kids is broadening its range of volunteer activities to include other child development issues, such as computer training, mentoring and cultural enrichment. Many Neighborhood Networks centers have programs of this nature. HOPE for Kids volunteers represent a tremendous potential resource for centers to tap.

To learn more about HOPE for Kids, call **Dan Evans of Neighborhood Networks at 888-312-2743.**

New CHIP/Neighborhood Networks Outreach Partnership Launched

Neighborhood Networks centers can participate in an exciting new CHIP/Neighborhood Networks Outreach Partnership. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is working in collaboration with the National Consortium for African American Children, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and HOPE for Kids which are sending volunteers to Neighborhood Networks centers to provide residents with CHIP program information and assist with enrollment.

Congress enacted the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 1997 to encourage states to provide health insurance for the children of working families who are ineligible for Medicaid but do not have employer-based coverage. More than 11 million children are estimated to lack health insurance; 6.5 million qualify for CHIP.

To find out how your center can participate in the CHIP/Neighborhood Networks partnership, call **Ruth Fisher of Neighborhood Networks at 888-312-2743.**

NNewsline Close Up: Nursing School Provides On-Site Health Care at Nebraska Neighborhood Networks Center

Jerry Simerly has developed a full-service Neighborhood Networks center with a significant health care component at the **Mercy Western Manor** and **Mercy Northglen Apartments** in **Lincoln, NE**. Simerly is the regional resident services coordinator. The two family properties, with a total of 140 units, use the **Mercy Western Manor Neighborhood Networks Center** for job training and computer classes, health screenings and comprehensive information on health-related topics. The key to the health program is a partnership with the School of Nursing at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Twice each week, a student nurse goes door-to-door to answer questions and monitor the health status of Mercy Western Manor and Mercy Northglen residents with chronic conditions. A second nursing student provides services at the Neighborhood Networks center. Scheduled programs cover such topics as diabetes management, heart disease, good nutrition, first aid and CPR. The nurse checks blood pressure and conducts other health screenings. Child developmental testing and influenza vaccines are provided annually.

When Simerly came aboard in June 1996, he surveyed residents and found they had a strong interest in more convenient health care. Simerly took Dr. Linda Sather of the nursing school faculty on a tour of his center and showed the results of the needs assessment. Dr. Sather was intrigued by the range of ages and life circumstances of the residents. She also felt that gaining experience in a residential setting would better prepare her students for the burgeoning home health nursing field.

Building on the success of this partnership, Simerly has added other health services, too. An ophthalmologist performs eye exams at the Neighborhood Networks center. Also, residents can qualify for food vouchers and nutritional counseling through the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program, the American Red Cross certifies residents in CPR and first aid, and school-age children receive free physicals.

To learn more about the programs and services offered at the Mercy Western Manor Neighborhood Networks Center, contact Jerry Simerly at 402-477-3512.

Get Involved with Neighborhood Networks

What information do you need? What topics would you like to see in this newsletter? Do you have information you would like to share with Neighborhood Networks partners and participants? Do you have story ideas? Give us your feedback! Contact the **Neighborhood Networks Information Center toll-free at 888-312-2743** or e-mail us at nnetworks@icfkaiser.com.

Neighborhood Networks News

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Where Will You Be July 20-24, 1999?

Make It Kansas City, MO
At the 1999 National Neighborhood Networks Conference!

Join us for two great conferences in one!
**The annual Neighborhood Networks Conference and
HUD's Best Practices and Technical Assistance Symposium**

Both conferences will be held at the same time and location.

Both conferences bring together Neighborhood Networks center staff, residents, and housing and community development practitioners in an unprecendented meeting of the minds!

What will this mean for you?

As always, the Neighborhood Networks conference presents a great opportunity to learn about job training, small business development, programs for youth and seniors, education and health care for start-up as well as operational centers. The bonus is the chance to learn firsthand about some of HUD's most successful programs.

Need more information?

Check the Neighborhood Networks website or call the Neighborhood Networks Information Center toll-free 1-888-312-2743. For information on the Best Practices conference visit the HUD Best Practices website at www.hud.gov/bestpractices.html or call toll-free 1-877-747-3861.

See you in Kansas City!

Visit our website at www.NeighborhoodNetworks.org

**U.S. Department of Housing and
Urban Development**

Neighborhood Networks

9300 Lee Highway
Fairfax, Virginia 22031

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use $300

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

hud
YOUR COMMUNITY PARTNER